

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 9 are currently being canceled.

Claims 6 and 8 are currently being amended, whereby claim 6 has been written in independent form to include the features of now-canceled claim 1, and whereby claim 8 has been written in independent form to include the features of claim 6 and now-canceled claim 7.

Claims 10 and 11 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 6, 8 and 10-11 are now pending in this application.

As an initial matter, and as requested in the previously-filed Reply, the Examiner is requested to indicate that he has considered the reference submitted in a proprietary Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 8, 2000, as required by M.P.E.P. 724.04.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (specification, pages 2-3) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,880,727 to Barrett et al.; and claims 5, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (specification, pages 2-3) in view of Barrett et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,040 to Bladow et al. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims, for at least the reasons given below.

The invention according to presently pending claims 6 and 8 forms a secret directory (a directory not displayed) having a name based on a password.

Unless the correct password is entered, the contents of the secret directory cannot be referred to. With this feature, the invention according to claims 6 and 8 advantageously eliminates a log-in session such as that described in Bladow et al. (which was applied against claims 6 and 8).

In numbered sections 7) and 8) of the Official Action, in which claims 6 and 8 are rejected, the Office Action appears to misinterpret claims 6 and 8 as storing password information in different files under a secret directory. Managing the password information in different files may be known in the art, as stated in the Office Action. In this case, however, an input password has to be collated with the password information stored in the files. In the present invention as recited in claims 7 and 8, the password information is used as a directory name ("secret directory has a name based on the password number is automatically formed in the directory hierarchy", as recited in claims 7 and 8) and access control is performed by merely moving data between the directories. Based on this access control, it is possible to eliminate the need to perform password collation processing.

Accordingly, since none of the cited art of record teaches or suggests the above-mentioned features of claims 6 and 8, these claims are believed to be in allowable form.

New claims 10 and 11 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record, when taken as a whole.

Therefore, since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17,

or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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